

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 14, 2007, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. Claims 1-4 are under examination and none of those claims is cancelled. No new claims are added so that claims 1-4 remain pending and under examination.

The Examiner's comments concerning the Summary of the Invention section of the patent application has been given careful consideration. In addition, the requirements of 37 CFR 1.73 and the commentary appearing at the MPEP 601.81(d) have been studied. Each of these two publications expresses the necessity of confining the Summary of the Invention section to the subject matter claimed. Particular emphasis is placed upon avoiding generalities or excessive breadth that may encompass subject matter other than the claimed subject matter. When, as in the present patent application, the Summary of the Invention section paraphrases or copies the claimed subject matter, it conforms to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.73 and the associated instruction to examiners appearing in the MPEP. Thus, the Summary of the Invention section presented here is not objectionable and does conform to the applicable regulation. Therefore, upon reconsideration, it should be recognized that no correction is appropriate or required. No correction or amendment to that section is made because it is not apparent from reading the applicable regulation that the assertion that "the intended objective was not to provide an exact copy of the claims" provides any legal basis for requiring a change in the Summary of the Invention.

In this Amendment, claims are amended for clarity. Amended claim 1, the sole independent claim being examined refers to the existence of electrical fixtures, rather than a single fixture, consistent with the description of the patent application. In addition, the word "associatively" is replaced with the word "collectively," a term believed to be more accurate and a term that is used in patent application at numerous locations, for example, at page 12 in lines 18, 21, 24, and 27. Further, a list of the

electrical fixtures controlled on the respective sets of cage stop floors is added as a new final paragraph of claim 1. This list is derived from the description appearing in the patent application, for example, at page 12, line 7 through page 13, line 3. Claims 2-4 are amended in a similar way, for clarity.

The invention as disclosed and claimed, as clearly understood in the examination, concerns an elevator system in which first and second cages, stacked one on the other, travel in the same hoistway and, generally, respectively serve odd-numbered and even-numbered floors within a building. This elevator system is operated under the control of an elevator control portion. As explained in the patent application, in a typical situation, tenants within a building having such a system and occupying multiple floors are arranged on all odd-numbered or all even-numbered floors. That way, tenants can freely move, using the elevators, from one occupied floor to another occupied floor since the first cage serves, for example, only odd-numbered floors and the second cage serves only even-numbered floors. Further, in the elevator system there are electrical fixtures installed on each of the floors. Those electrical fixtures may be lighting, air conditioning systems, security systems, or audio systems that provide music or announcements.

In the invention, as described in the patent application with respect to Figure 2, control of the electrical fixtures is divided so that electrical fixtures on floors served only by the first cage are controlled collectively and, likewise, electrical fixtures on floors served only by the second cage are collectively controlled. Thus, when one tenant is closed, all of the lighting can be extinguished on the floors associated with that tenant without affecting the lighting arrangement on floors served by the second cage.

Claim 2, a dependent claim, provides for a tenant override or tenant control of floors occupied by the tenant. As explained in the patent application, this arrangement contemplates a tenant occupying multiple, alternating floors and not contiguous floors in the building. Claims 3 and 4 are similar and are related to electrical equipment that is disposed in the respective cages of the elevator, not to the electrical fixtures that are

described in claim 1. Claims 3 and 4, like claim 1, however, provide for collective control of the electrical equipment in all of the first cages and in all of the second cages, separately, but collectively as to each cage.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as anticipated by Schroder (U.S. Patent 4,836,336). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected as obvious over Schroder in view of Friedli et al. (U.S. Patent 6,062,346, hereinafter Friedli). Both rejections are respectfully traversed. Obviously, if claim 1 is not anticipated by Schroder then all rejections are erroneous. Therefore, the following comments concern only the rejection of claim 1 and explain how claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Schroder nor even be obvious in view of Schroder.

Schroder clearly describes an elevator apparatus including a single car having first and second cages that respectively serve odd-numbered and even-numbered floors. Further, a control apparatus for controlling this elevator arrangement is described by Schroder. Schroder, however, contrary to the Office Action, does not describe collective control of electrical fixtures on respective floors serviced by the first and second cages, as in the invention.

In the anticipation rejection, the Examiner directed attention to the call button keyboard 20 and the display 9 of Schroder. No particular passage in Schroder was identified as relating to these elements. It is clear that for the Schroder apparatus to operate properly, the keyboard 20 at the respective floors must exchange information with some computer control. The Office Action also asserted that these "fixtures" can be altered depending upon building traffic.

In making the rejections, the control means and the elements controlled, according to the claims, may have been reversed. In Schroder, the keyboard 20 and the associated display communicate with an overall control apparatus for the elevator system. That control apparatus controls the movement of the elevator car according to a computer program. In the invention, the control is not of the movement of the car but rather control of features external to the elevator system, namely electrical fixtures at respective floors. To be sure, these electrical fixtures are operated or not operated,

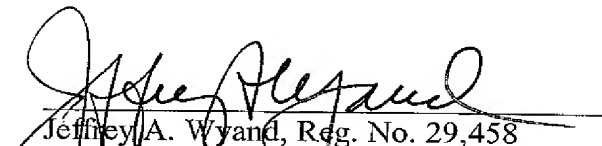
i.e., controlled, depending upon operation of the elevator system. However, the electrical fixtures that are collectively controlled do not provide inputs to or control the operation of the elevator system. Moreover, the control has little connection to and nothing directly related to elevator passenger traffic. The pertinence of that reference to the invention and claims is not understood.

The patent application makes clear that the electrical fixtures on respective floors that are referred to in the claims, as well as in the specification, do not relate to the operation of the elevator itself. Rather, the electrical fixtures of the building relate to, for example, lighting, air conditioning, security systems, and audio systems that provide music and announcements. By controlling those electrical fixtures, with respect to the distinct groups of floors served by respective cages of the elevator, desired conditions can be achieved. For example, if some tenant is closed while another tenant is open, the lighting and air conditioning can be reduced, saving costs, with respect to the floors that will not be served due to the closure of the tenant. No similar feature is described in Schroder. Therefore, Schroder cannot anticipate either of claims 1 and 2, and, upon reconsideration, the rejection of those claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 are analogs of each other. These claims describe the control of respective electrical equipment within the first and second cages by respective control portions. Again, an important feature is the ability to control the electrical equipment of respective cages independently. Even if that feature should be illustrated in Friedli, which applicants expressly traverse, claims 3 and 4 would still be patentable as depending from a patentable claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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